10

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

Original Story:

NISIOISIN

Original Character Design: VOFAN

MONO

KOYOMI VAMP
KOYOMI VAMP
KOYOMI VAMP

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

10

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

MAIN CHARACTERS

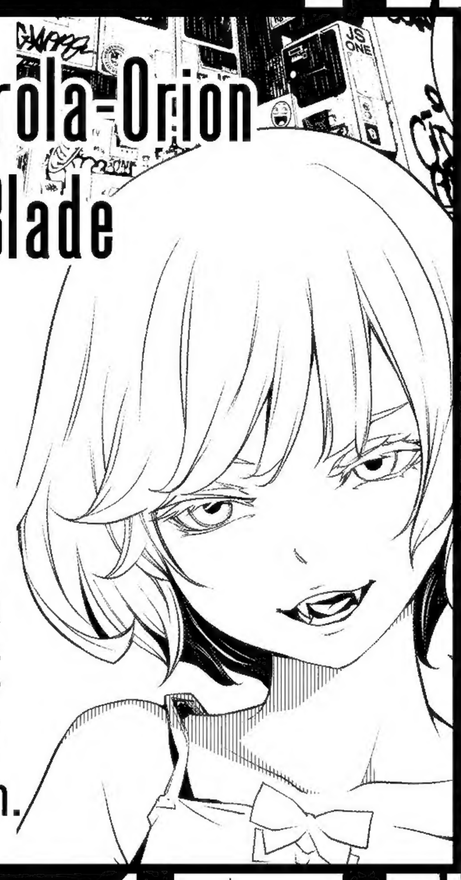
Koyomi Araragi

A boy who became Kiss-Shot's thrall after saving her. To regain his humanity, he must now fight three vampire hunters.

Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's friend who goes to the same school as him. Though an honor student that no honor could sufficiently describe, she goes out of her way to get involved with Koyomi for some reason.

Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade



A vampire powerful enough to be called the "king of aberrations" who Koyomi saved from the brink of death. Having lost her powers, she now takes a childish form.

Mèmè Oshino

A self-described expert on aberrations who suddenly appeared before Koyomi one day. He offers to act as a go-between for Koyomi and the hunters.

Dramaturgy

A vampire who hunts his own kind. A mass of manly muscle who carries an equally massive sword.

THE STORY SO FAR

Welcome to the world of the night.

三 TRI-FORMATION 陣

駆除 EXTERMINATION

During spring break, Koyomi Araragi saved the vampire Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade. He was fully prepared to die for her, but instead finds that he has become her vampiric thrall. To become human again, he must now fight three hunters who are after Kiss-Shot. Koyomi curses his fate as he heads to battle, but just before he reaches the site of his first duel, his new friend, Tsubasa Hanekawa, appears before him for some unknown reason...

Good eve-ning, Ara-ragi.

DO NOT ENTER

Chapter 0

Koyomi Vamp

BOOK DESIGN
VEIA

A...

Anyway, Hane-kawa...

I'm alone *because* I *want* to be alone. Stop following me.

You're a nui-sance.

Ah
...

Araragi?!
Hey...
Wait a
second!

And don't
mess with
someone's
phone
without their
permission.

OK

Delete?

Hanekawa

Tsubasa

Favorite

You have one contact selected.

Delete?

Cancel

BEEP

Contacts

Favorites

No Contacts

Get out of my face.

Hane-kawa ...

...is a good person.

She really is.

Sorry.

For forcing you to say all of that.

Dam-mit!

She's not like me.

I needed to quickly part ways with Hanekawa before going to the place where I agreed to meet Dramaturgy.

I couldn't allow her to get involved.

But those were just excuses.

I was frustrated— and all I did was take that out on her.

There was a big, jumbled mess inside of me—

a tangled knot of emotions.

I wanted to make Hanekawa my outlet for them. That's all.

THWAM

So...

It was for the best.

BOING

PA-KRAK

So I was lucky.

I was fortunate that we'd parted ways before any ties could form between us.

It was good that I'd cut ties with her.

No, the two of us had proba-bly...

...yet to truly meet. We just happened to cross paths with each other.

PA-KRAK

THWAM

THOK

NAOETSU CONSTRUCTION INC.

PS-2

10

POP

Fine.

FIZZZ

That must have done some-thing to up my intensity as a human.

I was back to being alone.

I'd regained my strength.

PHEW...

Huh ?

Hm ?!

PAT

PAT

PAT

And now ...

?!

There it is.

That beginner's guide to aikido that cost me 2,500 yen.

THE!! THE SKY OF AIKIDO

A guide with photos for everything from the basics to hidden techniques!

Special on Understanding the True Secrets of Techniques!!

but in terms of endurance, they're not too different from a regular human body...

Vampire bodies might have incredible strength and healing abilities,

Still...

I gotta be careful...

I should definitely ...

be fine with this.

THE SKY OF AIKIDO

It should be no problem to duel Dramaturgy and retrieve Kiss-Shot's right arm.

PEDES-TRIANS AND BIKES

Why are we dueling...

Wait...

...on my school's athletic field...?

It's a bonus.

Just take it.

The duel has three rules.

But then again, Araragi—you're still just a freshly minted fledgling of a vampire.

Of course... I do feel like I'm being a little too nice to you guys.

KREAK

KREAK

NO KILLING

1: No killing.

That goes for the both of you.

2: If you win, you get li'l Heart-Under-Blade's limbs back.

3: If you lose, you tell the hunters where she's hiding—which is to say, here.

2-CHOME

AERIAL IMAGES

HOOOOH

True
—

SUGOO...

I'm going to be fighting a monster like this guy— I should probably thank Oshino for this.

If I don't have at least a little bit of home-field advantage,

I doubt I'd have any chance of coming out on top.

SHIN

GWOOM

Sorry to keep you wait-ing.

...

Hm ...?

Was he always this... thin?

Ah, right... "Speak the language of the land you're in," was it...?

...

Hm ...?

Was he always this... thin?

Ah, right... "Speak the language of the land you're in," was it...?

Sorry to keep you wait-ing.

I've been waiting for you, young man.

Who are you?

Wait, no.

I'm sorry.

THIS IS ABOUT AS WEIRD AS WHEN JAKI DAIGOUIN SHOWS UP FOR THE SECOND TIME IN *OTOKOJUKU*!!!

THAT'S WAY TOO BIG OF A CHANGE NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT!!

This was the form I took when I was still human...

FSST

PTT

I'm here to talk business.

—My good fellow.

Do not misunderstand... I have not come here today to slay you.

SKKT

TWITCH

Join me—

O thrall of Heart-Under-Blade.

Glow Balls
Every Vampire
Annihilating
Organization

Headhunter

Dramaturgy

There may be mistakes on it. I used an online translator.

YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT KIND OF THING BEFORE HANDING THESE OUT TO PEOPLE!!

Glow ...?

...

化 bake

Ayuko

吸血鬼 KOYOMI vamp

10

語 gatari

A corporation... that specializes in vampire hunting?

I guess I'm not too shocked that one exists, but...

We have 53 "employees."

They're all vampires.

Probation is two months long. You'll be formally hired after training, though...

...it just seems like an awfully nice place to work.

Starting salary is 75 Exe. Given this country's cost of living, it's enough to go around having fun for half a year... 15 days of annual paid vacation, but 50 total when you add the two long holidays you get each year.

I'm currently the CEO since I'm number one.

But as Heart-Under-Blade's thrall, I'm sure you'll take that spot in no time.

Any-way...

Hm. Based on the way you speak... you do indeed seem to have a sense of self.

Guillotine Cutter and Episode were with me then... I belong to a different organization from them. It would have been...difficult to broach the subject.

... Hey, lis-ten.

You came slashing at me just the other day, so I don't see why you think you can turn around now and...

Something about being able to make it so that her orders went without question ...

...You know, I want to say that Kiss-Shot did mention something similar.

A sense of self...?

What does he mean by that...?

Does being a thrall...normally mean that you don't have a will of your own?

...couldn't it just be that she isn't able to control me even if she wanted to?

It does seem like she's been pretty weakened...

So...

"Boys, be ambitious," as the saying goes.

Jigsaw

Phalaris

You have but one future, and that is the one where you have joined our company.

Poison

Maiden

Sais

Chairman

The aberration-hunting division of Guillotine Cutter's cult is infamous for their severity—even within our industry...

If captured, you will be subject to cruel torture and experimentation.

You will be chased by hunters for decades... even centuries without rest.

...

We remove aberrations that place an excessive burden on society. Both sides profit.

Basically, our job is a charity of sorts... We do this work for the *sake of the people of the world.*

Join our company and they won't be able to lay a finger on you.

So he didn't bring that weapon because he just wants to talk...

One of my biggest concerns was how to deal with that, so...I lucked out there.

Why are you sounding like this just now? It's like you're quoting some employee manual.

So what you're saying ...

is that if I join you... you'll *give back* Kiss-Shot's arm...?

You're *quite brave to call* that woman Kiss-Shot...

Hm.

But no.

Your first job will be to bring me her head.

So... you've been saying all this stuff, but...

Um...

...will any of it matter if I become human again...?

Did that woman tell you how she'll make you human again?

There is a reason she is feared as the most vicious of vampires.

Do not underestimate her.

—?!

HURK...

There is no chance that you will succeed in this mission.

You will return empty-handed... and she will surely humiliate you with the harshest of reprimands ...!!

UNBELIEVABLE! WHAT ART THOU DOING, SCUM!!

FOOL! INCOMPETENT!!

ERM...! BALDPATE! RUNT! CUT THAT FRINGE—IT'S REVOLTING!!

I KNOW THEE NOT!

HARUMPH

DO AS THOU WISHEST! HRMPH!

Her anger will reach a peak... and then I imagine she will abandon you!! A hell worse than any other for a servant...

I HOPE THOU WILT MAKE ME HAPPY NEXT TIME... DO THY BEST?

...W-WELL... 'TWAS UNFORTUNATE, YES...

I-I MERELY THOUGHT THAT...

WH-WHAT IS THAT EXPRES-SION ON THY FACE?!

WAAAGH !!

BUT... PERHAPS I WAS IN THE WRONG FOR EXPECTING TOO MUCH?

But she is a cunning one... In order to show even greater contempt for you,

her words will surely change to gentle ones at times...!!

And it will not end there... In what she will call an act of discipline, she will take your head and...!!

And... place her foot upon it...!!

GULP

PANT

PANT

PANT

URGH ...

AHAHAHAHA

HER HUMILIATION WILL THEN ESCALATE FURTHER UNTIL SHE GOES SO FAR AS TO PLACE HER BOTTOM UPON YOUR HEAD...

JUST PICTURING IT IS ENOUGH TO FREEZE MY BLOOD WITH RAGE...!!

AGH...! ...N-NO...!! I-I CANNOT SAY ANOTHER WORD!!

AND FORCE YOU...TO WALK AROUND WITH IT THERE...!

Isn't that just...

...

...the best possible thing that could happen to a guy...?

—I cannot under-stand you.

It seems you have rather unique tastes...

...!!

For that to possibly be a reward...

...it would require an ass measuring at least three feet in width.

I see.

SIGH はあっ…

You need to work on your sales pitch for next time.

I don't think we're ever going to see eye-to-eye here.

You're never going to sweet talk a lady with lines like that, you know.

CRASH

Er.

Um...

It... didn't land ...?

Wait, now I'm just super embar-rassed...

So I guess... we should get star—

ZLURCH

KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
GWOOSH
GWOOSH
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL

Wh...

What was th...

SHHK

Ah!

ZSSSHH

ZSSSHH

110ŧ KRAKL

110ŧ KRAKL

110ŧ KRAKL

110ŧ KRAKL

You're honest to a fault, young man.

JKKT

SKRRK

I like that about you.

FSOOF

Kiss-Shot

P.H.
Hosp.
Gov. Ho.
Lib.
Gar.
Pol. St.
P.H.
P.H.
Hotel
P.H.
Hotel

Log in

Kiss-Shot Acerola

Gov. Ho.

Gar.

Pol. St.

Log in

—Oh, right.

I guess I'd heard that somewhere before.

That in the West,

werewolves are sometimes lumped in with vampires, or something like that.

GWLUSH

BOOM

—But it goes without saying

that now was not the time for such carefree musings.

THWAK

AAAA

I

"The Essence of Aikido from Step One."

THE SKY OF AIKIDO

A guide with ...os for ...thing ... the ...den ...es!

According to this book...the first step is to use your opponent's strength against them.

SKRRK

SKRRK

SNATCH

ZAKK

ZAKK

Let's see...

So... like this...

And then this !!

BWOOF

Whoa.

ZAKK

BOOM

This !!

Then like...

THOOM

KREAK

Enh ?!

Cut the non-sense and sur-render already !

W... Wow.

It's locked in!!

KREAK KREAK KREAK

So? How do you like that?!

S—

So, you are still clinging to the common sense you acquired as a human...? Well, I suppose that is only natural.

Ah...

...a character who's about to have the tables turned on him...

What's going on?

Hold on...

...I kind of sound exactly like...

...Hm ...?

Or I'll take this drainpipe of an arm...

...and snap it in two!!

THBPPT

ZZT

Oh.

Ah
—

I see
...

THUD

The *common sense* I had as a human.

I get what he was talking about now.

...
Ergh!

PLIP

PLIP

SHHNK

GA-SHUNK

What am I, stupid?

AAA
AAA
AAGH
!!

GA-CHKK

I could throw him—I could break his arm...

So what?

Eek!

He could heal any damage I dealt in no time.

And me thinking that he'd left his weapons behind in order to recruit me...

How quaint of a delusion could one man have?

This guy—just *turned a part of his own body into a weapon*...!!

Grrh!

Aagh ?!

?!!

Wha ...?!!

ZZZ

ZZZT

THROB THROB THROB

Ah...

Ergh ?!

ZSSK

Gr- rgh!

I...I can barely stay stand- ing...!

TREMBLE

SHIVER

SHIVER

Nn- ngh!

TREM- BLE

TREM- BLE

SHIVER

What's... going on...?!

My wounds... They're not healing either ...?!

Before this, they'd been healing so fast that I didn't even have time to register the pain...

Those are my cells.

Those cells absorb your blood in order to multiply— and control you.

They may *appear* to be inter-fering with your ability to heal,

but they are not.

They are working to *erase your very existence.*

W-Wait, that reminds me...!

Vampires who have their blood sucked by another vampire will see their very existence wrung dry.

In any case, do be careful not to let him suck thy blood.

I do recall Kiss-Shot saying some-thing along those lines...

So she was telling me some-thing super impor-tant!

How could she be so casual about it?!

Now then! My extremely thoughtful lecture for beginners ends here!!

GWOOSH

BOOM

Hyeek!

Eek!

Oww ...!

Ow! Ow!

THROB

THROB

Hff!

Haah!

Hff!

The infamous Heart-Under-Blade...

GRRRRGH

KREEEEAK

ZSSK

ZSSK

...chose you to be her first thrall in 500 years—but why?

Hff!

Haah! Hff!

BOOM

Is your ability to flee your only notable trait?

GRRR

No.

THP

SGRRRIND

Ngh!

I'm not...

ZHT

Gaaaah!

...run-ning away...!!

ZZZZZNK!

Ngra-
aagh
!!

POP

POP

POP

POP

SPLISH

SPLISH

Scraping away my cells in such a manner...?

I see.

Hfff!

Hfff!

Hah!

SKRRL

SKRRL

FSSH

?!!

She truly does have a type...

Ah, so you're simply a brilliant masochist.

GLARE

BAKEMONO
KENT-A- HITMAN
Even So, IPPO Approaches
GATARI
10

...this is nothing.

I wounded a defenseless Hanekawa.

Compared to the pain I'd caused her...

...I tried to act cool and say that to myself, and even though I did feel that way,

it wasn't a level of pain I could bear.

ZAKK

I got my arms back... but—

now what do I do?

Eek!

BOOM

Fhh
!!!

GWOOSH

Whoa—

It
seemed
...

Ah
!

Dramaturgy easily breaks 650, no matter how you look at it.

Of course it was. I weigh 120 pounds.

My ability to flee was my only strong point.

...that what Drama-turgy said about me was right.

So what.

But, well...

I'm easily the more powerful one, pound-for-pound!

RMBL

RMBL

RMBL

RMBL

I knew I'd be facing someone bringing those massive swords.

Why'd I show up empty-handed, anyway?

Dam-mit.

KOYOMI ARARAGI

Lv. 01
NEXT. 16
Job. Thrall

HP. 25
ATK. 32
DEF. 18
INT. 16
AGL. 23
LUCK. 8

Which weapon will you equip?

I had time. It didn't even have to be a weapon that could land a critical hit.

I could've at least gone to a home improvement store and made my own bow and arrow, or maybe a nail bat!

CREATE WEAPON | PURCHASE | REPA

Ugh...! Why'd I spend 2,500 yen...

...on a useless investment at a bookstore?!

Paper / rnable

What's this useless aikido book going to do for me?

BOOMF

...What?

This book ...

Oh...

There must have been a mix-up then...!

PAPER BURNABLE

PAPER BURNABLE

PLASTIC BOTTLES

GLASS AND ALUMINUM

CRASHER

GKKT

What's the mat-ter?

THWOOM

Giving up already?

It happened long before you were ever born...

A three-day-long squall that was a 50-50 mix of rain and Agent Orange.

That's ...

...when I told my commander —

FLAP

So that's how you grip it.

Oh. Makes sense.

CRASH

Weekly BASEBALL for Beginners Your First Step Toward Koshien

...Hey. Listen to me.

This will be instructive for you—

...

Huh?

Crap...! I missed ...

...

THWAP

CHWUNK

BOOF

KRAAASH

THINK

THINK

POPPPPP

FIZZZ

SIZZZZ

CRMBL

CRMBL

CRMBL

SIZZLE

TWITCH

...!!

TWITCH

How far is he— about 60 feet away?

SST

It seems you possess both naïve honesty and cunning.

—But that trick will only work once. Not again.

This is bad... If he closes the distance now...

...Hold on.

Hm?

BWOOF

You know, back when I was really young, it was my dream to stand on a major league pitcher's mound someday.

—This is a lie, of course.

Fssht!

TWIRL

TWIRL

TWIRL

KREAK

GA-KLANG

GRRRRK

KREAK

HRMPH!

SNAP

POP

SNAP

POP

BA-KRAK

BA-KRAK

BA-KRAK

...!

Gah...!

BOOM

THNK

THNK

Some-thing popped out?

It... pene-trated ...

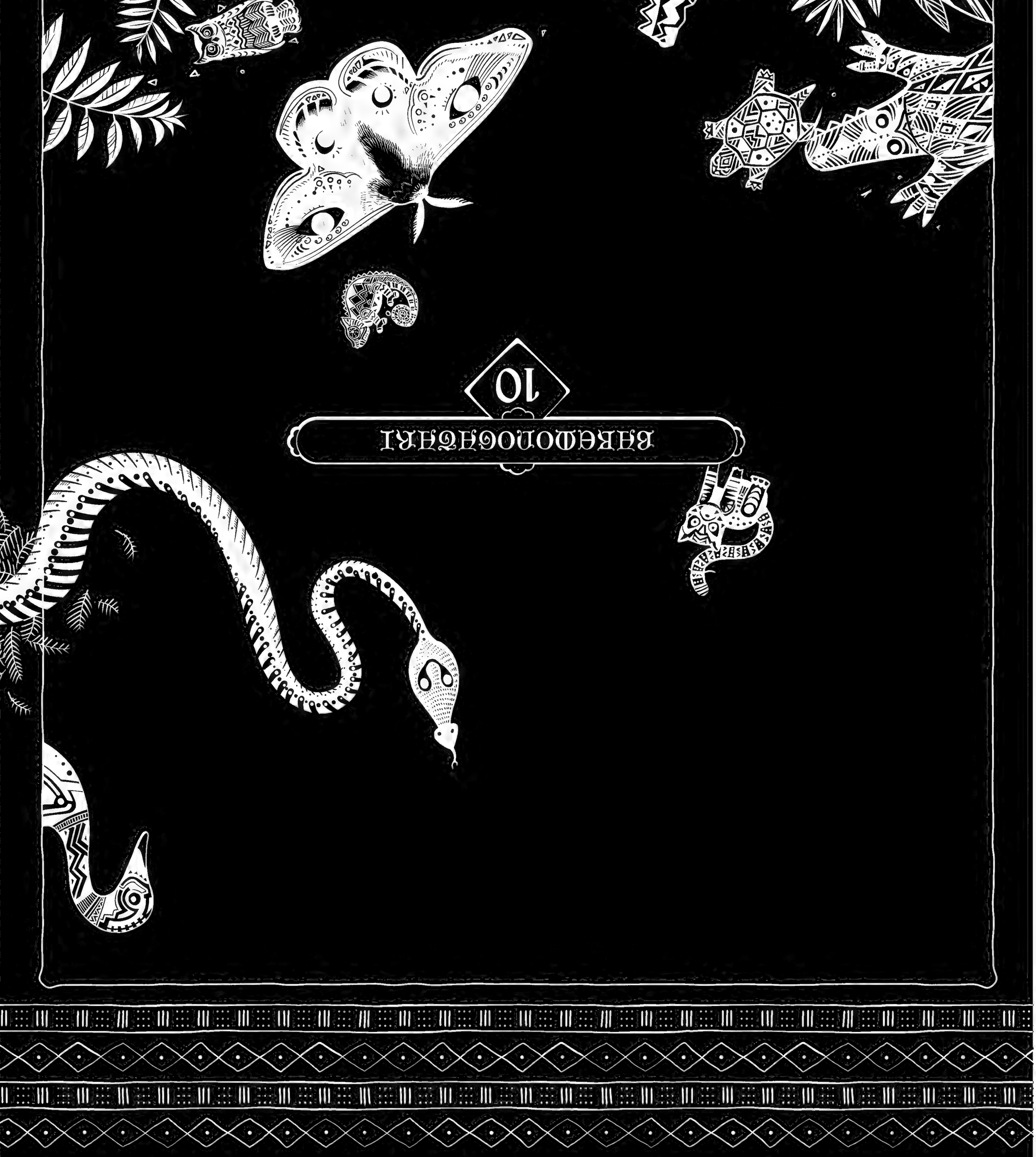
Hm?

It worked ?

The shock-wave... alone...

10

ВАЖЕНОСЕНЬКА!



...

Where am I...?

That's right. I know this place.

It's beautiful.

I need to hurry ...

Zusweil's Demon is coming...

The demon ...

Ngu-
yen.

Drama-
turgy?!

What's wrong? Why are you here?!

I was worried about you, Nguyen.

GROOOOOOAR

You defeated it.

Zusweil is dead.

The demon is gone now.

Have you forgotten, Drama-turgy?

Then...

... why do you cry?

...

Ngu-
yen?

GROOAR

You shouldn't be here, Drama-turgy.

BOOM

After all.

I'm al-ready ...

Nguyen!!!

BOOM

AH ?!!

AH

ZAKK

KABOOM

...

Maybe I used up all my beginner's luck.

I nearly had an entire basket of balls.

Dammit! I had such a huge target, too...!

ZAKK

UGH

It seems that for a moment...

...I'd taken a trip to heaven.

But I guess my control was balls too.

They have the beat of a warrior. They're songs of battle.

The flame that burns in your body down to the marrow of your bones gives meaning to that melody.

I love your songs, Dramaturgy.

...just as you saved me that day.

It is my hope that your songs will save many people...

But now is not the time for that tale.

KRRK

KRRK

KRRK

KRRK

KRRK

CHKK

Now I've still got a lot of fighting spirit left in me.

THK

THK

Someday, when this is all sorted out.

...you've got a story. I'll listen to it... someday.

...

Seems like...

But right now, I'm too preoccupied with my own problems.

キュキュキュッ
SKRRRK

BOOM

POW

...

Wh...!

GRROWL

VZZT

NGH?!

POP

SPLATT

BA-KRAKK

STORAGE SHED

SPLOP

ZSHH

STORAGE SHED

I am weak!!!

I need power-ful allies!!!

That is why... I need them!!!

CHOMP

Graagh!

BWOOMP

GRAB

BWOOF

SKRAKK

POP

ZSSHH

BOOM

GSSHKK

HIGASHI
16LBS

...How dare you ...!

FWOOSH

THWOOMP

Nnnn-
ngh...!

BAKEMONOGATARI

AAAA

?!!

SST

THWOOSH

HISSSS

PHEW

I surren-der.

...

Umm...

Would you be satisfied, then, if I said this?

I will never lay my hands on you again.

Please spare my life.

Mgh!

WWWW

LOOOOW

CRASHER

...die just yet.

I can-not...

GA-
KRAAASH

KREAK

KREAK

—Huh?

No... That would be optimistic ...

Smashed with that thing, with your strength, the damage would be tremendous— it would take me two full days to regenerate.

You seem to have misunderstood something... Not many vampires have the ability to heal damage instantaneously.

Did I not say that you were number one?

You'll give me back Kiss-Shot's right arm, right?

Of course. That was the promise.

Despite the gap in raw ability... I thought my experience gave me a chance to beat you.

...

No.

I can't let my guard down yet.

Is... Is that what's going on?

...Mmh.

...

I guess that's what it means... to be a professional.

It's now being stored in a certain location.

I'll have that shady-looking man hand it over to you at once.

Got her right arm!!

Ending this now, while we're both still in good shape...

...is part of his job.

—I bet Kiss-Shot's going to be so happy...

HERE IS THY REWARD. ♡

EXCELLENT JOB, SERVANT.

FWSH

Huh...?! Er.

Well, yeah... I know I said I'd listen to your story someday...

But now?

He just called me "Deviant" like it was my name!!

Now then, Deviant, I apologize for interrupting your fantasies.

But I'd like for you to hear my story—as promised.

YOU CAN'T JUST START A FLASHBACK NOW!

NO, YOU NEED TO BE LISTENING TO ME! NO ONE ASKED FOR THIS!

—It happened long ago.

A three-day-long squall that was a 50-50 mix of rain and Agent Orange.

That's when I told my commander.

Sir.

...Your back.

FZZT

SPLUTTER. SPLUTTER

It's burning.

Thanks to that, I finally realized that something was wrong.

HAAAAH

It was as dark as night in the jungle as the squall fell...

Still, the sun's weak beams found their way in from time to time.

HAAAH

My whole unit...

ZSSHK

...had been turned into vam-pires.

Out of nowhere, too... Oof!

Man, that's heavy.

How do I put this... I'm not really in a place to hear all this from you...

Uh... Hey... Listen, I'm just a regular high schooler ...

...But I, too, was bitten and turned into a vampire in the process.

I fought my former comrades-in-arms—

and killed them all.

Come on, man!

I had someone in mind.

A girl I met from the village my unit was garrisoned in... Her name was Nguyen.

...

...I'm sure she would have grown to be a beautiful woman with an ass more than three feet wide— I loved her.

...If she had survived ...

A vampire we called Zusweil's Demon had lived in her village's forest for ages.

Each year, they would offer this demon a human sacrifice.

Nguyen was chosen to be that year's offering.

My unit heard about the situation from her...

We only half-believed it, but we went out to hunt the demon. Like it was some sort of game we played to kill time.

And the reason she did that...was because she didn't want to hurt any more of the villagers she once loved...!

Yes... Once I realized that myself, I... *Sniff...*

...And she tricked you so she could lure you into the depths of the forest...?!

What...? I can't believe it... So Nguyen was Zusweil's Demon all along...?!

Nguyen...or rather, Zusweil's Demon attacked us and turned us into demons ourselves in order to drive the military out of her village.

—But in the end, before our commander went mad, he gave the order...

...to bomb the village.

—But this so-called "demon"...

...left me with one last message.

WRITHE

もぇ

Bomb it...?

TWITCH

ヒクン

Urrgh...

WRITHE

もぇ

TWITCH

ヒクン

That couldn't have been the right decision.

We were the ones in the wrong, storming into their village like that.

Thank you for saving me.

ありがとう… 助けてくれて

SHHK

That is my story.

I imagine you'll understand what Nguyen meant by the time your mission comes to an end.

Whether you are successful... or not.

I will come to you with another invitation then.

I wouldn't be in this line of work if I didn't.

Stay true to your convictions.

...Did you understand what she meant?

When you heard her... Back then.

What am I going to do about all this...?

It's a mess...

PHEW ...

... Hold on.

HURK

?!!

I suppose I could thank him!

Then again, things worked out thanks to that old dude.

Home-field advantage and all...

Oh... So I was being watched all along.

Well, yeah... Of course.

Don't scare me like that...

Oshino !!

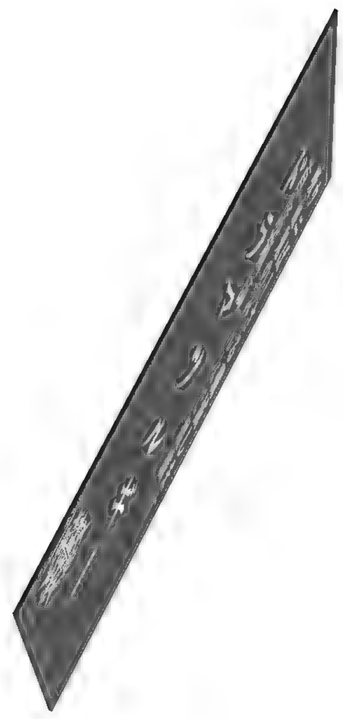
Hey, I won!

He was going on about how he's a mediator or an arbitrator or whatever...

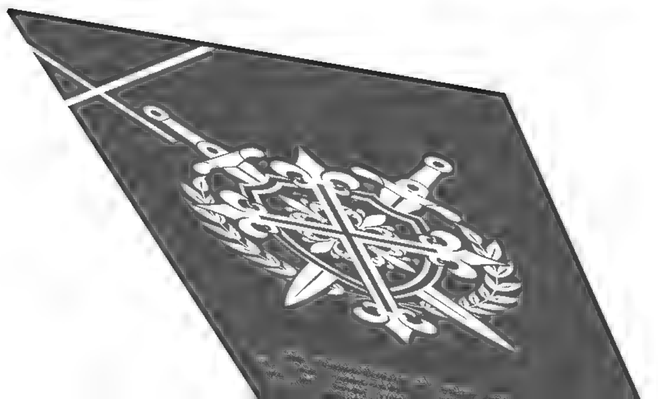
THOK
THOK
THOK
OKAY
THEN.
PAT
PAT
CRASHER

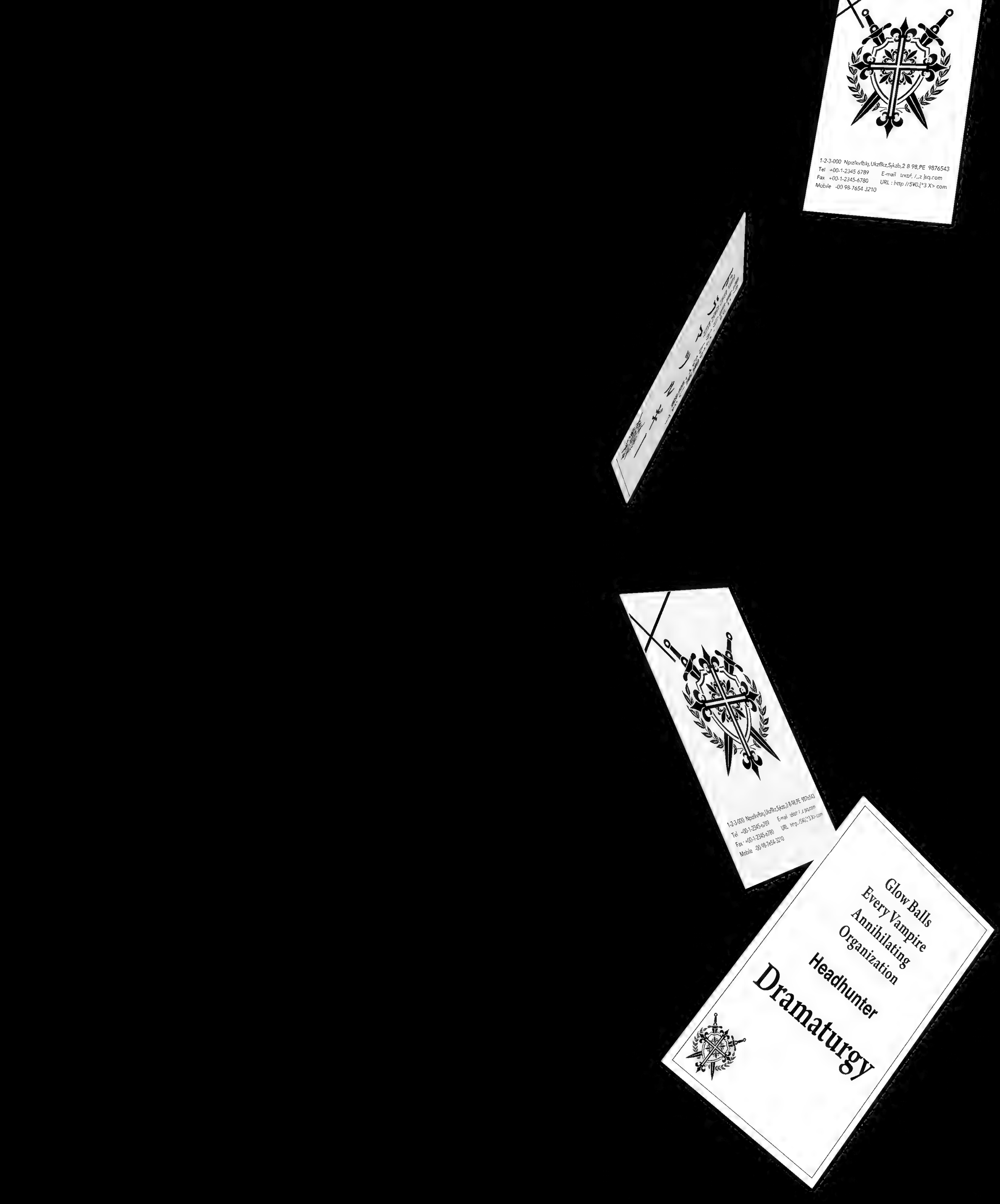
AAAGH!
THWOOMP
THWOOMP
THWOOMP

...
...Hane...



BAKEMONOGATARI 10





BAKEMONOGATARI 10

ズキ

ZWOOOOM

ZAKK

ZAKK

ZAKK

ZAKK

ドキ

BAM

I thought I'd been nasty enough to drive her away...!

Hanekawa had followed me?!

ARARA-GIII!!

KRATTLE

What ...

...was that?

All of that just now, Araragi...

What was it?

...

It's...

...none of your busi-ness.

BAKEMONOGATARI

This book is important to you, right?

This is your book, isn't it?

I was searching for you... and I happened to find it.

Here.

BOING

RUSTLE

THE SKY OF AIKIDO

Special on Understanding the True Secrets of Techniques!!

...Now I understand why you read it so many times that it became...a tattered mess like this.

I actually got a glimpse of the cover earlier.

And wait...

Where'd she just take that out from...?

...How do I tell her that it's in tatters because I threw it against a wall...?

TWITCH

TWITCH

Okay... I'll use that as my opening to drive her away with insults again...

...?!

A field of grass?

THE SKY OF AIKIDO

Figurine with photos for clothing

But could you perhaps be mistaking me for a cricket or something?

What a thorough search that must have been.

You found it while you were searching for me...? So you were searching for me in a field of grass?

No outside individuals allowed for any reason

That's why I thought you might be inside...

This book was on the ground... just inside the school's gate, you know.

make sure this gate is locked

Wha?!

What's going on, then? ...Did someone take that book all the way to the gate?

But I'm certain that I grabbed the wrong book while I was by that vacant lot...

By the gate...?

FWOFF

Phew ...

There's still some left.

Nice and warm...

...Thank good-ness.

...Agh!! No, that's not what I should be thinking about right now!!

...! A-Any-way!

Give me back that book! Now! Before it gets lost!!

What? Where's it going to go from here?

Just hand it over already!!

...

Again.

...You're done here now, right? Go home, then.

THE SKY OF AIKIDO

...this kind and warm creature all over again.

I'm going to have to wound...

Stop pretending to be my friend just so you have an excuse to stick your nose in my business.

I told you not to follow me around... I don't get it.

You're not the type to say that kind of thing, are you, Araragi?

THROB

THROB

JOLT

Urk.

Even from behind—I could feel her eyes on me.

They bore a hole through you.

They see straight through you.

They force you to recognize how shallow you are.

Those are the kind of eyes she has.

I'm sorry.

But it must mean you're in such a tough spot that your only option is to speak that way to me, right?

I've been making you say these things— and naturally, I feel terrible about that.

...
Ngh!!

I'm sorry it took me so long to notice.

So I'm sorry.

If that's the way things are, I...

...want to help.

You're reading into things too much. I was just...

...tired of hanging out with you.

You're really pushy, you know that?

You...

I JUST PREFER TO BE ALONE!

I can figure that much out. You at least seemed to be having fun when you were talking to me.

You're not a misanthrope or the world-weary type, Araragi.

Liar.

And like *I* said, my family isn't that rich!

LIKE I SAID... I WAS ONLY AFTER YOUR FORTUNE!!

I don't drink, and you shouldn't either!!

THEN I WAS ONLY AFTER YOUR TODDY!!

I flubbed that.

YOUR BODY!

My toddy or my body?!

Which is it?!

NO!!

I'M TELLING YOU I WAS ONLY AFTER YOUR BODY!!

NHA-AAH!

FINE THEN, I'LL MAKE UP WITH YOU IF YOU SHOW ME YOUR PANTIES AGAIN!

BAM

...Do you want me to take off my blouse, too?

Is this okay? Can you see them all right?

Aah...

Now.

For the first time.

KSSHNK

Aaah!

AAAH...!

BRRIP

BRRIP

BRRIP

I felt like— I was finally meeting Hanekawa.

We weren't passing by each other. We truly met— head-on.

She's a cool person— but that's not all.

I'm sorry for saying those horrible things.

wasn't even in her league.

Someone like me

She's a strong person.

Please, be my friend.

BAKEMONOGATARI

Well done.

Nothing. I was just seeing if I could lure you in—

SWOOP

TO DO WHAT?! THE ONLY WAY I COULD INTERPRET THY BEHAVIOR IS THAT THOU WANTED ME TO STEP ON THY FACE!

...

What's the matter?

…

STARE

I guess it goes past "understanding"... he was just a good dude.

Like, straight up.

Dramaturgy is an understanding fellow.

But, of course, I should expect no less of a result from my thrall.

Ah. The boy has returned.

'Sup.

Welcome back, Oshino.

Your spoils.

THMP THMP

Good job, Araragi.

SO YOU WERE WATCHING !

You put in some hard work. I know, since I was watching over you from the shadows.

I also know that you made a girl pull up her own skirt.

No need to worry. I couldn't see her panties from my angle.

Oh.

That's not what I was worried about!

GA-SHUNK

BSSHT

BSSHT

You shouldn't touch it quite yet.

As you can see, it's still bound by a pretty powerful barrier. You can tell, right?

HOOOH!

Mine arm!

Ara-ragi.

I mean, she's a girl and all.

Especially her, since she seems like a smart one...

In any case, you should probably explain the situation to any witnesses.

O—

Of course! Who dost thou take me for?!!

Unlike girls, boys don't come up with creative dance routines, do they?

Is that really your level of self-awareness?

Ha hah —

That was my plan, but... how does being a girl versus being a boy make a difference here?

ROLLY ゴロ

ROLLY ゴロ

ROLLY ゴロ

Aurrrruuugh

ROLLY ゴロ

ボテッ THUMP

Hmm... Probably some kind of immodest dance that they couldn't possibly show the boys.

...That said, it is a mystery to us boys what the girls are doing during creative dance class.

FLAP
FLAP
PA
UOA

CRAWP

CRAWP
UOA
FLAP

You can't use that as a measure of someone's intelligence, Oshino.

That's just because the girls have a creative dance component in P.E.

コッ
THP
コッ
THP
コッ
THP
コッ
THP
コッ
THP

Now you've got me interested.

There's another girls-only thing that's been on my mind.

I think it was during health class in middle school...

Since we're on the topic...

I wondered what the girls were learning then.

There were a couple of times where they split up the boys and the girls.

KOFF

I thought so.

—I, uh, don't know what that was.

There are some things even I don't know.

Araragi, that's—

...

A brilliant proposal.

but I'm sensing a bit of malicious intent in the air...

Hm? Maybe this is all in my head,

Yeah, makes sense. I'll do that.

Hey, why don't you just ask that Hanekawa girl?

OOH!

It just finished being dispelled.

Here.

What an image...

STILL ?!

MUCH

AAAH...!♡

CHOMP

CHOMP

CHOMP

RIP

RIP

RIP

KRNCH

KRNCH

KRNCH

SKLURCH

SKLURCH

Leave me to myself as I eat. Where are thy manners?

Hm?

Don't just stand there, gawping, fools.

It's not like I wanted to see that, anyway.

...

So that's how she "recovers" ...

Oh...

Can I...really become human again?

Hey —

Oshino.

There's some-thing I wanted to ask you.

Hm?

I don't see why not.

As long as you can get back Heart-Under-Blade's three other limbs, that is.

Isn't that what the kid said?

Well, you know.

I was just wonder-ing...

...what if it was... a lie...?

Do not trust that woman, young man—

Hey.

THOK

How can you say that about someone who saved your life? I can't believe how ungrateful you are.

...

You offered up your life to Heart-Under-Blade.

But consider this—

She's allowed you to keep your sense of self.

Objectively speaking, you could say you've been upgraded.

So ultimately ...

...you haven't lost a thing.

—All so that you could live.

She's the one who suffered a loss.

She lost her numerous vampiric abilities —but that's not all.

She's also lost most of her dignity and even the majority of *her very existence.*

When I happened to pass by you...

...as she struggled to drag you along,

she asked me...

That's what she said.

Will thou please do something to save him?

She didn't say a word...

...about wanting to be saved herself— you know.

Hurry

Quickly

Morning will come

By morning

Th—

Well, I didn't know about that...

A-And anyway, dragging me...?

When she can karate chop through concrete?

That's concrete.

An object's weight is *different for every being.*

To her— you're pretty heavy.

Don't you see that?

...Wh-

Why would that be, though?

I'm nothing more than prey to her.

And the reason she let me live...was so that I could get her limbs back—

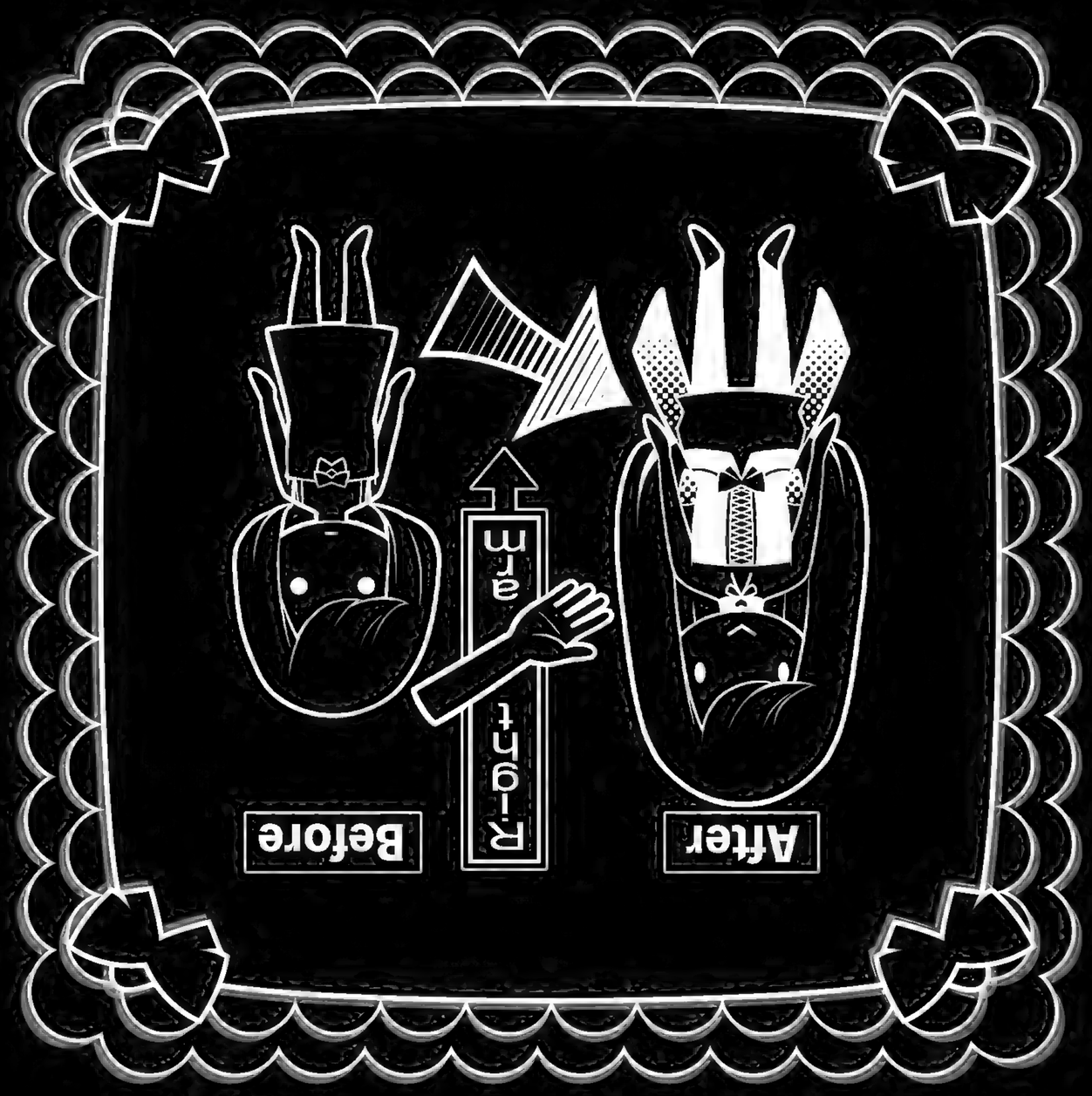
Araragi. Are you telling me—

you still think *you* *became a vampire—by pure chance?*

You playing the victim doesn't sit well with me.

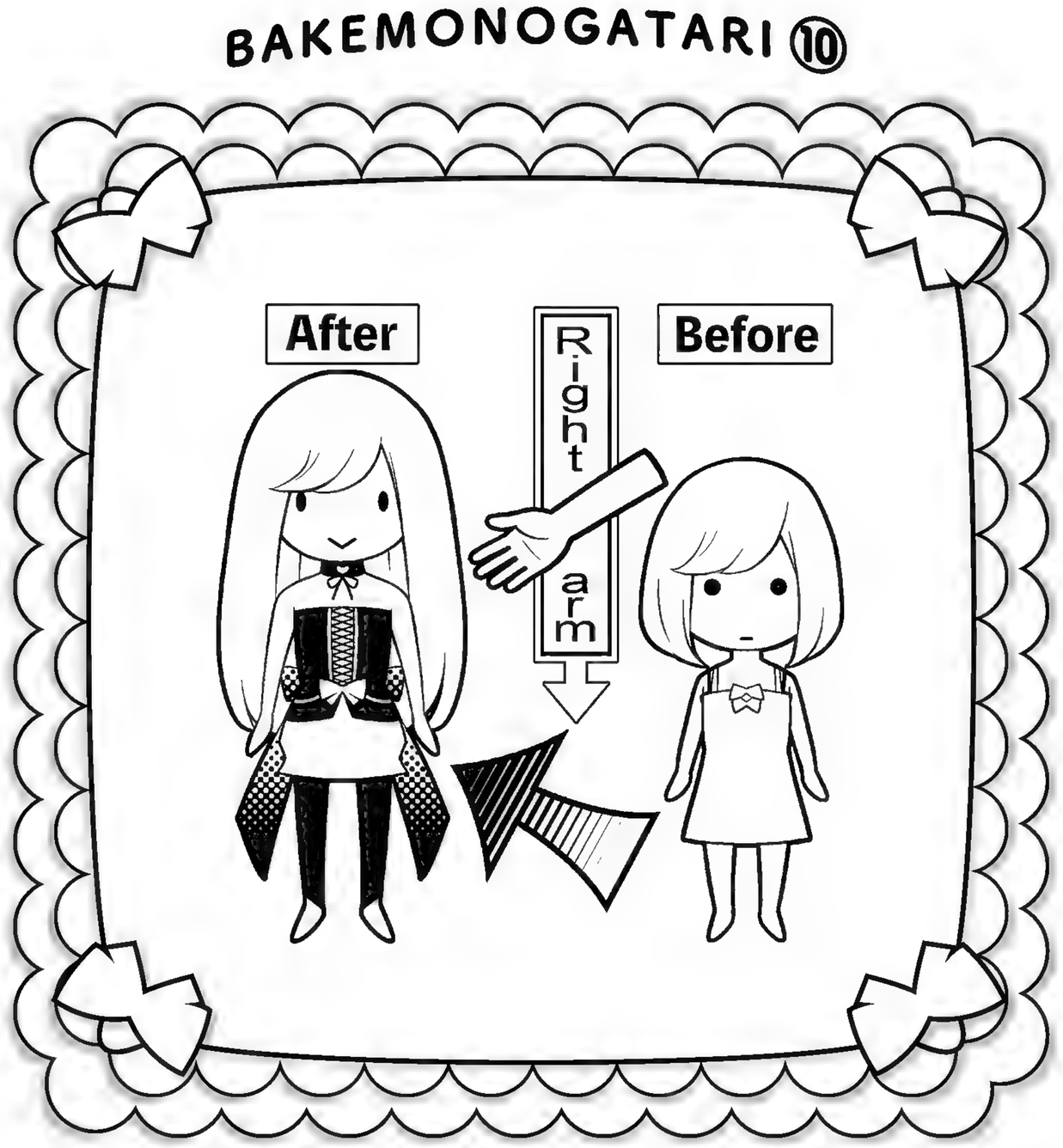
Huh?

CRASH



BAKEMONOGATARI ⑩

BAKEMONOGATARI ⑩



BAKEMONOGATARI

This isn't — by chance ...?

Hold on a second, Oshino ...

I don't care how I sit with you,

but I'm not trying to play the victim here.

So he's saying that there was— *a reason* I became a vampire...?

What...? How could there be...?

But either way, from my perspective— you're being naivë.

That's good to hear.

I'll keep it in mind, Araragi.

I meant naïve.

HOW DO YOU EVEN MISSPEAK LIKE THAT ?!

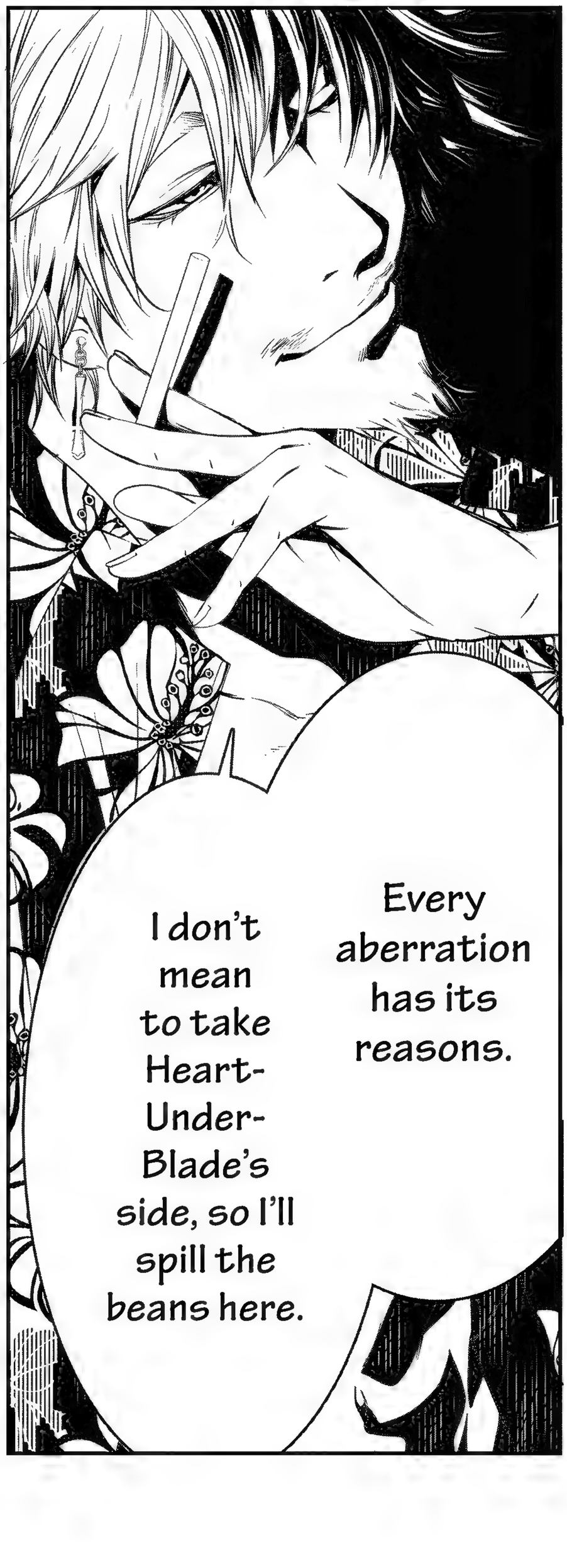
Oh.

Oops.

“Naivë”?

A vampire sucks a human’s blood for two different reasons.

One is to consume nutrients—the other is to create a thrall.



Every aberration has its reasons.

I don’t mean to take Heart-Under-Blade’s side, so I’ll spill the beans here.

Come on, Araragi... How many times over would humanity have been destroyed if that were true?

No matter what?

But I thought that if a vampire sucks your blood... you turn into a vampire no matter what.

What ...?

Um...

Now that he mentions it... Yeah, I see what he means.

If one vampire turned two humans into vampires a day...

Humanity would be wiped out in 33 days and a few hours...

2^{32} is around 4.3 billion, so...

If we say n is the number of days, that'd be $1+2^n$=the global population.

Huh?

...

TAP TAP

Hm?

Two people a day— would give you about 22 days, I think?

I think your calculations are off.

Nutritional consumption and thrall creation— the two are completely distinct.

Naturally, *they* have their own self-purification system.

It seems that they maintain a balance by going out and killing any vampires who go berserk or go *too far*.

Dramaturgy's "company" is apparently a part of that system.

GRIND GRIND

IT WOULD LOWER MY IN-TENSITY AS A HUMAN.

I just had a feeling... I thought I knew what it was.

I say that... because barely any of what he said made its way into my head.

Or so it seems.

—Oshino went on to tell me all kinds of things.

CRASH

Vampires don't like to create thralls too often. ...Especially not if they're about to die.

So, Araragi.

It isn't just Heart-Under-Blade.

BWOOF

Practicing what I called "active solitude" —unwittingly *distancing myself from others and separating myself from them*—

may have prepared me for this, allowing me to step foot into *this side*.

This feeling would turn into a conviction at a later point in time—

when I met Mayoi Hachikuji, a snail aberration.

ヒュン
JOLT
BOOM
SZZT
CRASHERS
CLAP
CLAP
Ha hah!
What was that?
Wh—
YOU WERE LOOKING PRETTY WORRIED, SO I THOUGHT I'D DO SOMETHING TO CHEER YOU UP!
SURPRISED? JUST A LITTLE MAGIC TRICK, ARARAGI.
HA HA HA HA HA

There's no need for...

Eh... Nothing.

It's fine.

Hm?

...?

What is it, Oshino?

If I'm being honest with you, I'm able to see all kinds of things.

Including the reason you became a vampire.

You might be able to understand it yourself if you look back on your past, Araragi.

Look back on my past, huh ...?

Well, it's true that I've avoided forming relation-ships up until now ...

ZWOOF

FSHT

Do not speak when it is not thy place to do so.

Boy.

BRAP-BA-BA-BAAA

After

Before

Right arm

She's some-how bigger ?!

KISS-SHOT GREW!

That voice —

Kiss-Shot?!

...?

?!

Heh.

I've regained a small portion of my abilities as well.

...

...!

Whoa.

As thou canst see.

I guess she's...

PINCH キュッ

...around ...12 years old?!

She's only a little bigger than before,

but the feeling she gives off... and all the little changes...

TUG ギュッ

Do not gawk. Hast thou no manners?

Learn some etiquette.

...

Is that another vampire rule?

I created it just now.

Lest I blush.

Aye, it is.

How spirited thou art.

Some-thing good happen to thee?

It did to me.

Some-thing most superb.

Hee-hee!

Heh.

Ha hah —

HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA HA!

HAH!

Ha hah …

…

I've made up my mind.

But I will say this, never-theless.

It is only natural for a servant to work for the sake of his master …

I have thee to thank. My gratitude.

Those things *only concern me*, after all.

But I'm not going to think about those right now.

Questions, doubts— I've got plenty of them.

That's all I'll think about for now.

Right now,

I'm just going to get back this beautiful vampire's limbs.

CRASHER

PAT

ナデ

PAT

AYE!

DO NOT ENTER

April 1.

It is 22 days.

—Yeah.

Hanekawa had come to the abandoned cram school...

...and as promised, I explained the whole situation to her.

Huh?

So if you were to say a_n is the number of vampires on day n,

Day 1 would give you $a_1=1$, because there's only one vampire.

I think a straightforward geometric progression would give you about 33 days...but the original vampire is going to suck blood too.

...Seriously?

But I'd tossed out the calculation about humanity's demise that came up with Oshino.

Math really is your best subject!!

That's amazing, Araragi. You were able to calculate all that while having a discussion?

- On day 2, 1 vampire creates 2, giving you $a_2 = 1 + 1 * 2 = 3$

- On day 3, 3 vampires each create 2 vampires, giving you $a_3 = 3 + 3 * 2 = 9$

Expressed as a formula, the number of individuals on day n + 1 is a_{n+1} =
(the number of vampires on the previous day) +
(the number of vampires on the previous day) * 2
= 3 * (the number of vampires on the previous day)
$= 3 * a_n$

$a_1 = 1$, so a_n becomes a geometric sequence where the first term is 1 and the ratio is 3, meaning $a_n = 1 * 3^{n-1} = 3^{n-1}$.

If we were to say the world's population is 7.7 billion, $a_{21} = 3^{20} = 3{,}486{,}784{,}401$ (approx. 3.4 billion) and $a_{22} = 3^{21} = 10{,}460{,}353{,}203$ (10.4 billion).

Therefore, the entire world would be vampires by day 22.

My words were as hollow as they could be.

GUESS SO!!

Continued in Volume 11

Next Volume Preview
BAKEMONOGATARI 11
Having defeated Dramaturgy, Koyomi faces his next opponent...
Gotta love it.
...the half-vampire who holds Kiss-Shot's left arm...
...Episode.
Episode
Will Koyomi...
...truly be able to return to the path of humanity?
You're ...
...right here.
COMING OCTOBER 2021!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga), volume 10

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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